

Anubis has beaten some big odds

By DAVID BRASCH

ANUBIS is a story of what might have been. That might be owner Kevin Jackson's lament, but it has been a blessing in disguise for greyhound breeders.

Anubis is the Credibility-Angel's Faith dog, a litter to champion Faithful Hawk, that was on the verge of greatness only to drop both back muscles.

"Bob Biddle knew I was looking for a dog to buy and he phoned one Thursday with a likely looking prospect," Jackson told The Journal. "It was Anubis and his owners needed to sell. Bob said he had broken in .02 faster than Faithful Hawk who had made his maiden debut the previous day at the Gold Coast and had won."

With little or no work, Jackson and his trainer Alex Green drove up to Biddle's breaking-in track and watched the dog trial. "He broke 20 seconds but pulled up a bit sore," said Jackson. "But Alex said I would be mad not to buy him on what we saw."

Anubis was given a bit of time off, prepared by Green and produced in a solo trial around the Gold Coast. He flew.

"He went 25.64 at his first look at the track," said Jackson. "The following week he went into his first field trial and won the trial in 25.70 beating Rocking Rambo who was a top grader at Albion Park and a very fast dog at the Gold Coast.

"Tony Zammit would not believe our dog was a maiden and having his first field trial."

On a bog track, Anubis made his debut in a maiden and off the rails ran third. He won the final the following week in 25.80.

"So we took him to Albion Park for his juveniles and at his first look there he went 30.20," said Jackson. "The next best trial of the night was 30.80."

He was beaten a nose at his debut, then almost fell when fourth to Ballistic Jet but a few days later beat that brilliant galloper in a Juvenile. Anubis then headed to Ipswich and won a heat and final but dropped both back muscles in the final. He was out for seven months.

"I took him to John Murray and he decided to operate only on the worst muscle and suggested



the dog would lose at least six lengths because of the injury," said Kevin.

Anubis did come back to racing. "A few weeks before the Golden Easter Egg, Peter Rayner trialled

Faithful Hawk around Bob Biddles track and he went 19.46," said Jackson. "Anubis went around immediately after him and trialled 19.48. It's history now that Faithful Hawk went on to win the Egg."

While Anubis did come back to win races, it was obvious to Jackson and Green he was not the dog they had before the dropped back muscles.

In all he started 35 times for 11 wins, 11 seconds and nine thirds, winning five at Albion Park. He also scorched around Ipswich in 30.03. His final race start was in the Coca-Cola Cup when unplaced

behind Questions, dropping a pin muscle in the race. "I said then, enough is enough," said

Kevin. "And I was resigned to having him as a house pet at home."

But vet John Murray was having none of that.

"John told me to put him to stud," said Kevin.

"He said everyone knew how good he was and that we should use him."

To date Anubis has had 26 matings but only seven of those have raced top date.

He has a staggering strike rate of 80 percent winners to starters.

"He's very virile missing only two bitches and one of those was 14," said Kevin.

His flag-bearer is the brilliant Mikarza Right the winner of 14 races including nine at Albion Park when he has won in 30.02 and 35.16, as well as 30.73 around Ipswich and was a finalist in the Queensland Cup won by Annie's Commando in track record time.

"The Michael's Last litter to Anubis is easily the

best she has produced," said Jackson.

With the tragic loss of Faithful Hawk within a couple of years of his stud career starting, his litter brother is an ideal alternative. "I had a dog from the Michael's Last litter called Electrified who could have been anything as well but he snapped a hock," said Jackson.

Other Anubis progeny include Bundaberg Derby placegetter Forever Zodiac and finalist Mister Zodiac, and Bundaberg Oaks runner-up Zany Zodiac. His son Smiley's Son is a multiple winner in Perth.

"One of the best points about his progeny," said Kevin. "Is that he puts strength into a litter. A number of the bitches producing winners to him were not particularly strong in their races.

"And yet the pups are getting a strong 500m and many get 600m."